

# CORWORKS

## A PARISH ACCELERATOR INITIATIVE OF THE OSV INSTITUTE FOR DIOCESAN LEADERS

### ABOUT CORWORKS

## WHAT IS CORWORKS?

CorWorks is a parish accelerator initiative of the OSV Institute. It is a one-week, retreat-style intensive that equips parish teams to address real, local expressions of human suffering – using design thinking, rapid prototyping, and community listening, grounded in the Church's call to encounter Christ in the suffering through the Corporal Works of Mercy.

Participating parishes arrive with a defined problem and a committed team. They leave with a working prototype of a solution and a 90-day implementation roadmap. Each accepted parish may also receive up to \$25,000 in seed funding from the OSV Institute to launch their initiative.

## WHY IS CORWORKS DESIGNED AS A RESIDENTIAL RETREAT?

The immersive, residential format is not incidental – it is integral to the program's effectiveness. Parish teams live, work, eat, and pray together on-site for the full accelerator week, removed from the noise of daily parish operations.

This environment creates the depth of focus and team trust that the work requires. It also situates the innovation process within a genuine rhythm of prayer – Mass, Vespers, Adoration – anchoring the work in the spiritual identity of the Church rather than treating innovation as a purely technical exercise.

Venue: Lindenwood Retreat Center, Plymouth, Indiana (pending final confirmation).



# WHAT IS THE OSV INSTITUTE?

The OSV Institute for Catholic Innovation is the philanthropic arm of Our Sunday Visitor – a Catholic organization with a century-long legacy of championing the Church through news, parish and diocese solutions, faith formation, and more. The Institute inspires and equips Catholic leaders to cultivate innovative, entrepreneurial responses to the Church’s most pressing challenges. CorWorks is its newest initiative – bringing that same spirit of innovation directly to the parish level.

# WHAT DOES 'ACCELERATOR' MEAN IN THIS CONTEXT?

An accelerator is a structured, time-limited program that helps teams move quickly from a defined problem to a working prototype – testing and learning in a compressed period rather than planning indefinitely and hoping something works. The method comes from the social and business innovation sectors, where it has a strong track record of producing real, community-facing results.

CorWorks applies that discipline to parish life. The intensity is part of the design. It creates focus, generates momentum, and produces something concrete – not a strategic plan, but an actual tested initiative.

## HOW CORWORKS FITS THE LANDSCAPE

# HOW IS CORWORKS DIFFERENT FROM OTHER PARISH RENEWAL PROGRAMS?

Programs like Divine Renovation, Amazing Parish, and CLI are designed to strengthen parish culture, leadership structure, and team health – foundational work that is genuinely valuable and has helped many parishes across the country.

CorWorks is designed to come after that foundation is in place. It does not renew a parish – it equips a renewed parish to build something concrete for the community it is called to serve. Think of it as the next step: renewal builds the team; CorWorks puts that team to work on a specific, local problem.



Renewal Programs (e.g., Divine Renovation)	CorWorks
Strengthen parish culture & leadership	Equip parish teams to build community-facing initiatives
Focus: who the parish is	Focus: what the parish does for its neighbors
Internal transformation	External impact, grounded in internal mission
Long-term culture change	Time-bound process with concrete deliverable
Where parishes start	Where renewed parishes go next

## DOES CORWORKS REPLACE OR COMPETE WITH PROGRAMS WE ARE ALREADY USING **IN THE DIOCESE?**

No. CorWorks is explicitly designed to complement, not compete with, existing renewal initiatives. Parishes that have gone through renewal programs have the culture and leadership foundation to get the most out of CorWorks. The diocese can position it as the natural next investment for its most mission-ready parishes – the program they are ready for after they have been renewed.

### THE CORWORKS MODEL

## HOW DOES THE COHORT MODEL **WORK?**

Each CorWorks cohort accepts up to 6 parishes. Those parishes go through the full program together – sharing the one-week accelerator and the 90-day implementation phase as a community of practice.

This creates something that isolated parish efforts rarely achieve: cross-pollination of ideas, mutual accountability across parish lines, and a regional network of innovating parishes that outlasts the program itself. OSV launches three cohorts per year, building an expanding national network of parishes actively engaged in innovation for human flourishing.



# WHAT DOES THE FULL PROGRAM LOOK LIKE?

**CorWorks has two phases:**

**Accelerator Week:** A one-week residential retreat intensive at Lindenwood Retreat Center, Plymouth, IN (pending confirmation). Parish teams follow a disciplined process – Listen → Diagnose → Design → Prototype → Test – within a full daily rhythm of prayer (Mass, Vespers, Adoration). By Friday, teams have a working prototype and a 90-day implementation roadmap.

**90-Day Roadmap:** Teams return home and implement, with OSV alongside them through October 9. The structured support cadence includes:

- Week 2 (July 13–17): Group Check-In Call – Full cohort + OSV, 60 min.
- Week 3 (July 20–24): Individual Coaching Call – Team + OSV advisor, 45 min.
- Week 4 (July 27–31): Virtual Debrief – Full cohort, 3 hrs. Findings, roadmap finalization, grant conversation.
- 1st week of August (QPR 1): Individual progress review, 30 min.
- 1st week of September (QPR 2): Individual progress review, 30 min.
- 1st week of October (QPR 3): Final QPR of roadmap phase, 30 min. Roadmap closes October 9.
- Optional beyond October 9: Quarterly advisor calls for parishes opting into continued OSV support.

# WHAT DO PARTICIPATING PARISHES ACTUALLY WALK AWAY WITH?

At the end of the full initiative, participating parishes have:

- A tested, community-facing initiative rooted in the Corporal Works of Mercy
- A 90-day implementation roadmap with measurable milestones
- Practical skills in design thinking, community listening, and rapid prototyping – transferable to future parish challenges
- A stronger team culture built through genuine shared mission
- Up to \$25,000 in seed funding from the OSV Institute to launch their initiative

Critically: parishes leave with tools they own, not a dependency on CorWorks. The goal is to leave each parish with a repeatable innovation process that outlasts any single initiative.



## THE DIOCESE'S ROLE

# WHAT DOES **DIOCESAN PARTNERSHIP** ACTUALLY LOOK LIKE?

The diocese is the champion – the entity best positioned to identify ready parishes, extend the invitation with institutional credibility, and create momentum across a region. OSV manages the program entirely. The diocese's role is to:

- Identify and invite parishes to apply that are mission-ready and positioned to benefit from this level of investment
- Provide endorsement that removes skepticism and accelerates parish buy-in – a bishop or vicar general's invitation carries weight that a vendor's marketing cannot replicate
- Stay informed of parish progress and receive OSV's reporting on cohort outcomes

The diocese does not manage, facilitate, or fund the program. OSV does. What the diocese provides is the relational infrastructure that makes parish participation real.

**The cohort model is designed to create diocesan-level momentum: when six parishes in a region are simultaneously innovating and reporting results, the diocese has a concrete story to tell about what mission-ready parishes can accomplish.**

## WHY WOULD A DIOCESE CHOOSE TO **PRIORITIZE CORWORKS** OVER OTHER PROGRAMS?

Most renewal and consulting programs produce insight. CorWorks produces evidence – tested initiatives, specific outcomes, and parishes with a demonstrated capacity for innovation. For a diocese committed to pastoral effectiveness, that is a qualitatively different kind of result.

CorWorks also addresses something that dioceses rarely have tools for: the translation layer between renewal and action. Parishes that are formed and energized often don't know what to build next. CorWorks answers that question with a process, not a program.



# IS THERE A **FINANCIAL COMMITMENT** REQUIRED OF THE DIOCESE?

There is no cost to the diocese for partnership.

For parishes, CorWorks represents approximately \$300,000 in program value with no program fee. Accepted parishes are required to submit a \$2,500 refundable deposit at the time of acceptance, which is returned in full upon completion of the 90-day roadmap. Financial hardship accommodations are available for parishes where the deposit is a barrier.

Details on any diocesan partnership agreements are available upon request.

## **GETTING STARTED**

# WHAT IS THE **TIMELINE** FOR THE FIRST CORWORKS COHORT IN 2026?

Applications open for parishes in the Diocese of Fort Wayne South Bend April 14 and close June 5. The accelerator week runs July 6–10 at Lindenwood Retreat Center, Plymouth, IN (pending confirmation), followed by the 90-day roadmap phase running through October 9. cohort results will be available in the fall of 2026.

Note: The April 28 Diocesan Webinar is scoped to Cohort 2 recruitment. If you are considering partnership for Cohort 2, that webinar is your entry point.

# HOW DOES OUR DIOCESE TAKE THE **FIRST STEP?**

The national launch webinar – an invitation-only session for diocesan leaders – is the right place to begin. You will hear directly from OSV Institute leadership, ask questions, see the CorWorks model in detail, and learn how to identify and invite parishes for subsequent cohorts.

From there, the process is straightforward: your office extends the invitation to parishes you identify as ready, parishes apply directly to OSV, and OSV handles the full review, selection, and program delivery.

To confirm your participation in the webinar or to begin a diocesan partnership conversation: **[ckelly@osv.com](mailto:ckelly@osv.com)**.

